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Buckley Sister Retains Hope

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PROVIDENCE, R.I., Nov. 27—The sister of William Buckley, who was kidnaped by Moslem extremists in Beirut in 1984 and has been reported dead, said she retains hope that her brother is alive.

In what apparently was her first public comment on her brother, Maureen Maroney on Wednesday discounted as "absurd" reports that Buckley broke down under torture and confessed before dying that he worked for the Central Intelligence

Agency, The Providence Journal-Bulletin said today.

"The truth is we don't know what happened. We may never know. And now all we can do is wait," Maroney, 48, said in an interview at her Massachusetts home.

Buckley was kidnaped March 16, 1984, apparently by members of the Islamic Jihad. Buckley's captors reported in October 1985 that they had executed him after he confessed to working for the CIA, but his body never was found.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday that Buckley was chief of the CIA station in Beirut. The story also said Buckley probably died months before his execution was reported and that he had disclosed information about CIA operations after torture.